

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 62

July 2015

No. 7



Calendar

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|-----------------|---|---|
| Fri., June 19 | Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place lobby | from My Heart: Memoirs of a Marriage" (see p 5) |
| Fri., June 26 | Film Society, <i>The Magnificent Seven</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 2) | Thurs., Aug. 6 GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Sat., June 27 | Large item pickup; Film Society, <i>Seven Samurai</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 2) | Sun., Aug. 9 Meet-the-Artist reception, Judy Weisberg, Penn Place, 2–5 pm |
| Thurs., July 2 | GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm | Mon., Aug. 10 No Town Council meeting |
| Sat., July 4 | 4th of July activities (see poster) | Mon., Aug. 17 Art at Penn Place, new exhibit: Lynn Lewis, paintings (see p 5) |
| Mon., July 6 | Art at Penn Place, new exhibit: Alan Rich, paintings (see p 5) | Thurs., Aug. 20 GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Sat., July 11 | GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Pool Party | Sun., Aug. 30 Meet-the-Artist reception, Lynn Lewis, Penn Place, 3–5 pm |
| Sun., July 12 | Meet-the-Artist reception, Alan Rich, Penn Place, 3–5 pm | Thurs., Sept. 3 GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Mon., July 13 | Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm | Mon., Sept. 7 Labor Day, no trash pickup; Pool closes |
| Thurs., July 16 | GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm | Tues., Sept. 8 Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; deadline for the next <i>Bugle</i> issue, 4 pm |
| Thurs., July 30 | GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm | Sat., Sept. 12 GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm |
| Sat., Aug. 1 | GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm | Mon., Sept. 14 Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm |
| Sun., Aug. 2 | Art at Penn Place, new exhibit: Judy Weisberg, "Lunch Bags | Thurs., Sept. 17 GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm |

Garrett Park: Where Every Day Is Arbor Day

Our town is gorgeous because of groups like the Arboretum Committee—residents who volunteer to keep an eye on our tree canopy and other plantings. Since 1977, when the town gave itself arboretum status, that committee has maintained and refined the greenery that's made Garrett Park a magnet for nature lovers all over Washington.

The committee's current chair, Keith Mayhew, is stepping down, and you are asked to consider replacing him. This request, made by the Council's liaison to the committee, Kacky Chantry, came at the end of the June meeting of the Town Council, but because of its importance your reporter has led with it.

Since there were no presentations by residents, this month's meeting began with the approval of

a demolition permit for 4508 Strathmore Avenue. The Setback Advisory Committee reported no impediments to a new residence there.

Garrett Park does not, however, regulate heights of houses. We will withhold permission to build until Montgomery County permits (which address height) are obtained.

Although the Town Council approved demolition, there was plenty of discussion with the builder (he attended the meeting) about the new residence. The house will be set back 10 feet farther than the current house; on the other hand, the house will be twice as deep as the houses adjacent to it. The Council talked with the builder about density, height, and so forth, for about 20

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minutes. Members asked about massing, lot coverage, and the potential for visual relief from the size of the house. Joanna Welch noted that the town needs to confirm that the third level of the house will not be livable space.

Charlie Snyder objected to this discussion; he argued that townspeople had not been given sufficient notice of the demolition and building plans. Another resident asked: "Is this the one and only opportunity we have to hear about the demolition and the new house?" The Mayor said yes, it was. Charlie proposed that we wait a month on the decision, but the vote went forward. The demolition passed unanimously, subject to review by the town attorney of the procedures associated with the demolition hearing, and to the Historic Preservation Committee being able to photograph the home's interior before demolition.

Discussion now moved to proposed technical modifications of the rules by which the town implements the Maryland Public Information Act. The proposal is to change the method by which the amount we charge people to copy requested documents is determined. In particular, Mayor Benjamin proposes that the fee schedule be decided by the Town Manager, based on the cost to the town of providing such copies. Prices would be determined annually by the Town Man-

ager, and would be posted on the Garrett Park Web site.

After lengthy discussion, the motion passed. This decision too will be subject to review by the town attorney, again in terms of whether adequate notice was given to the town of the proposed changes, and also in terms of the status of any disagreements that people seeking documents might have with the fees charged.

Now to an update on the Town hall renovation. We have received a draft report from Balodemas Architects on necessary repairs to the building. Joanna Welch proposed convening a small group of residents to review the report, with an eye toward narrowing the scope of the issues presented to the town. This selective report would then be presented for general review.

Although there are indeed many issues included in the report, subsequent discussion suggested that everyone would like to review everything. Thus the full report will be given to the town.

I seem to be inaugurating a tradition of concluding each of my reports with an update on Penn Place bathrooms. They are, as you may know, undergoing renovation, and as of now the women's room is done. This leaves the more challenging men's room.

Margaret Soltan

GPFS Presents Double Bill, June 26, 27

Have you ever seen an American remake of a classic foreign film and wondered what the original was like? Take *The Magnificent Seven*, for example, the classic 1960 Western directed by John Sturges, starring Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, and a cast of shady characters with a terrific score (to be shown Friday, June 26). It is a remake of the classic Akira Kurosawa film from 1954, *Seven Samurai*, starring Toshiro Mifune (to be shown Saturday, June 27). The Film Society is going to give you the opportunity to compare the master and pupil. Both are rousing tales of misfits and underdogs overcoming "the bad guys." Both are terrific films.

Dinner on Friday will be a potluck. Bring your favorite summertime dish to the Town Hall by 7

pm and eat for free. If you don't feel like cooking, pay \$10. On Saturday, dinner will be served at 6 pm, and our resident Japanese chef is preparing a special menu. Look for details on the poster in Town Hall or the Garrett Park Neighbors listserv the week before.

Admission to each film is free to GPFS members, or \$5 per person, \$10 per family at the door. Dinner on Saturday will be \$10 per person. Soda, bottled water, beer, and wine will be available at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

Hope to see you at the Town Hall both nights!



The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Vice-President: Michael Lutkenhouse
Treasurer: Bridgett Silverman
Secretary: Mike Grieb

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager Notes

End of Fiscal Year. The month of June marks the end of my second year as Town Manager. The town remains strong financially, and I continue to be amazed at the beauty of the town in every season.

Of course, a large part of the reason for that beauty is through the efforts of our maintenance crew. Butch and Frank continue to keep the town in great shape. I hope everyone appreciates their efforts as much as I do.

Please remember that if you have a question, complaint, or concern, call me at the Town Office, 301-933-7488. My assistant, Elizabeth Henley, and I will do our best to help as quickly as possible.

July 4 celebration. The celebration sponsored by the Citizens Association is shaping up to be a good time with lots of food, music, games, and of course the annual parade. See the poster on the last page for details.

In preparation for the celebration, we will have the streets cleaned during the last week in June. We will notify everyone of the exact date so that cars can be moved off the streets.

Large item collection. Large item collection over the summer will be on Saturday, June 27. The next pickup will be on Saturday, October 3.

Please be sure to place your items curbside no later than Friday.

Summer traffic. Drivers, please be aware of the increase in foot traffic, especially children walking to and from the swimming pool and Cambria Park.

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable summer!
Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

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This Year’s Graduates

We are pleased to recognize this year’s crop of graduates. Best wishes to all of you!

If we missed someone, please let us know before the publication deadline for the next issue of the *Bugle*, and we will be sure to include them.

From High School:

- Kaylie Collins: Walter Johnson; going to MC and then to the Savannah School of Art and Design to study jewelry making
- Ilie Lichtenstein: Sandy Spring Friends School; going to Skidmore in New York
- Garrett Mader: Walter Johnson, Paul Silver Memorial Award in Jazz; going to Eastman School of Music, Rochester, to major in performance and music education
- Benjamin Wing: Montgomery Blair Magnet program; going to Grinnell College, Iowa, for physics and Asian studies

From College:

- Melanie Altar: University of Maryland School of Nursing, MA, Clinical Nurse Leader Option; inducted into Sigma Theta Tau and Phi Kappa Phi Honor societies, 4.0 GPA
- Maria Bonner: Georgetown University Law Center, JD
- Julia Bonner: Georgetown University, BA in American studies, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
- Hannah Marsh: University of Maryland, BS in economics and Arabic; working on video projections for the theatre
- Susanna Wegner: University of Washington, PhD in environmental toxicology; currently working with the Environmental Protection Agency on an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellowship
- Simon Wegner: University of Auckland, New Zealand, MA in sustainable management

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Citizens Association Notes

The Citizens Association hosted a meeting on May 27 with representatives from the County Executive’s office concerning the White Flint Sector Plan. According to these representatives, the White Flint development as planned will result in tremendous pressure on the current enrollments in elementary and middle schools and, ultimately, on Walter Johnson High School, which presently has an enrollment of 2,345 (119.3 percent of capacity). Although there is no current plan to redistrict Garrett Park out of WJ’s district, the ultimate outcome could be the addition of 30 to 40 more classrooms being built at the school, which was recently renovated. The new classrooms would increase WJ’s enrollment capacity to 3,200. If that proves to be inadequate, Tilden Middle School could be relocated to its original location, and Woodward High School could be reopened.

We will not hold a CA meeting in June. The planned meeting on stormwater management will be scheduled for some time in the late summer or early fall.

In the meantime, July Fourth approaches! The CA is getting ready for the festivities. The theme

for this year is “Famous Firsts.” Please see the 4th of July poster for a schedule and details. Come out for the annual parade and barbecue!

As always, Garrett Park’s own Border State (pictured) will set a uniquely “rock and roots” musical theme of American independence, including a dance concert and many new songs.

Annual dues. Please send your annual dues (\$15 for individuals and \$25 per family) to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join. The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? Or perhaps you have a suggestion for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Sean Conlan.



Border State

Jobs List

The list of young people offering chores this summer is maintained by the Town Office. If you

would like to be included on the list, please contact Elizabeth Henley, 301-933-7488.

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle*. It is the *Bugle*’s policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private e-mail addresses in the e-*Bugle*.

Art at Penn Place

Since the *Bugle* vacations during August and September, we're telling you now about our summer fare at the gallery.

Currently, the gallery is featuring Michael Shibley's exhibit of large watercolors and small oils, entitled "Paintings Large and Small." His work will be on exhibit through the 4th of July, so if you haven't seen his paintings yet, wander through the gallery soon.

Our July artist is Alan Rich, who describes himself as "puddle deep" into fluid acrylic pours. What started as an experiment turned into a passion for creating colorful and organic flowing abstract paintings that will set your imagination swirling! Alan uses acrylic for its wide array of available gels and mediums, and its ability to create different and interesting textures and fluid movements. As a visual artist, he also paints still life, landscapes, and whatever else inspires him. Come meet Alan at his reception on July 12, from 3 to 5 pm, and find out why Alan describes his work as both relaxing and invigorating. Alan's work will remain in the gallery from July 6 to August 1.

Boy, do we have a fun treat for you in August! For two weeks, from August 2 to 15, we are excited to present Judy Weisberg's "Lunch Bags from My Heart: Memoirs of a Marriage" at the Penn Place Gallery. Judy has been a resident of Garrett Park for 46 years, and as a wise NIH lab wife, she believed that lunchtime should provide a break from work for her husband Bob and his fellow researchers. To this purpose, she packed Bob's daily lunches in brown paper bags, each uniquely designed to inspire conversation

on topics beyond the realm of science. These included travel, politics, culture, and even pigs, in deference to the Weisbergs' favorite animal. The bags were decorated with news clippings, photos, cartoons, personal notes, and lots of Scotch tape! For years, Bob dutifully brought each bag home, accompanied by nightly reports of the many lighthearted moments they inspired among his lab lunch buddies. Over time, the used lunch bags piled up until, after Bob's death, Judy turned 418 of them into a wonderfully creative memoir of the precious decades of their marriage.

We are honored that Judy has agreed to share with us a sample of these whimsical mementos of her life with Bob, and we hope her neighbors, friends, and family will join us at her Meet-the-Artist reception on August 9 from 2 to 5 pm. "Lunch Bags from My Heart" is a very special show that you will not want to miss.

From August 17 to September 12, we welcome artist Lynn Lewis to Penn Place Gallery. Lynn is an exceptional painter who has studied in the United States and in France. She has taught art for 25 years in Virginia and Maryland, and has written for *School Arts Magazine*. Lynn often paints on location to absorb light and mood, and she enjoys the challenge of creating the illusion of motion. As the Best-in-Show winner of our 2014 Invitational Show, we have been anxiously awaiting Lynn's solo show at the gallery. Lynn's landscapes have a quiet strength that at once pull you in and wrap you up in the light and movement of her soft colors. Please join us for Lynn's Meet-the-Artist reception on August 30, from 3 to 5 pm, and be sure to stop by the gallery at least once to experience her inspiring work.

Green Again

The Warren Kornbergs have come through with the green needed for this month's banner. They have helped us many times in the past, and we appreciate all that they have done.

Anyone else care to join the bandwagon? We are painted up to the November *Bugle*. You can make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98.

And don't forget your dues, which cover the CA's events year round. July 4 is the event that costs the most, and that is just around the corner, so any help you can send our way will be gratefully appreciated. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer



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Mon-Sat

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Fire Department Fundraiser

A Car Wash Service Marathon Weekend to benefit the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department is scheduled at MR WASH, 3817 Dupont Avenue, Kensington, on July 25 and 26 (rain date August 1 and 2).

MR WASH will offer its new “MR WASH IT” service, which features a soft cloth exterior car wash, glass cleaning, hand-applied high gloss exterior finish, vacuuming of the car interior, and hand-applied tire shine and “Wheel Brite” cleaning. This custom service is only \$45, with half the proceeds going to KVFD to support the purchase of a new ambulance. Please come to MR WASH between 8 am and 5:45 pm on that weekend to support the fire department!

Thank you for supporting your local volunteer fire department.

David Contois, Chair, Fundraising Committee,
Kensington Volunteer Fire Department

Demolition Issue

In the May 2015 issue of the *Bugle*, Chris Keller wrote a letter in which he claimed that a Chevy house at 4423 Strathmore Avenue had been demolished and “nary a splinter of the original house remains.” His letter also stated that there was a failure on the part of those who were responsible to review the required Garrett Park building permit applications. Mr. Keller is mistaken on both counts.

In fact, this project was a renovation and addition to an existing house, not a demolition. The

Setback Advisory Committee (SAC) reviewed an initial building permit application that clearly showed that the project would renovate the existing house, retaining the first floor, foundation, utility connections, and portions of the exterior walls. Other portions of the exterior walls and the original roof were to be removed to enable a second floor and rear addition to be constructed. The SAC prepared a written report recommending that the permit not be approved because the proposed project did not comply with some parts of the GP ordinances. A member of the SAC met with the project applicants and explained the issues. A revised design and permit application was submitted, and a second written report was prepared by the SAC, recommending approval of the renovation and addition. All the members of the SAC concurred in this recommendation. Montgomery County reviewed a separate building permit application for the project and also approved a permit for a renovation and addition, not for a demolition. At the request of the town, a member of the SAC inspected the project during construction to verify that it was being built in accordance with the building permit that had been issued.

Mr. Keller’s letter stating that the house was demolished was incorrect and his accusation that the SAC (and Town Council liaison) volunteers had failed was unfair. Mr. Keller is certainly entitled to his own opinion about this project. He is not, however, entitled to make up his own facts.

Harry Gordon, FAIA, Chairman, Garrett Park
Setback Advisory Committee

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We’re ready to enjoy a beautiful summer in Garrett Park, with our annual 4th of July celebration, pool activities, and relaxing in the shade of our gorgeous trees.

The seniors would like to thank everyone who came to their aid during our ice and snow days this winter—what a difference it makes to have some extra help! Also, we were happy that many of you joined us in celebrating our “80 and Over” residents at the party in the Town Hall. Our mayor was there to greet both the younger “under 80’s” and the older “over 80’s,” and the cake to honor the oldsters announced “Congratulations—you made it!”

Many thanks to the Women’s Club, the town, and the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee, for co-sponsoring this event, and to the volunteers who all made it a festive occasion!

We wish all of our neighbors a happy, serene summer, to be followed by the usual colorful leaves of a Garrett Park autumn.

The Seniors Committee

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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Letter from the Mayor

Garrett Park is an arboretum, we value our tree cover, and we have access to a variety of tree species to plant along our right of way and in our parks to have a diverse stock. Our Arboretum Committee, with the assistance of our town arborist, determines what trees to plant where in order to assure that tree cover for the years to come. But the diversity of our trees planted many years ago is not as great as what we are now planting, and we are faced with a large number of older trees, many being tulip poplars, reaching the end of their lives. When those trees fall they can cause (and have caused) substantial damage to homes and cars. Although they have not caused personal injury, there have been some close calls.

We would like to develop a plan to balance the desire to maintain our leafy cover with a judicious removal and replacement of existing trees. This means trying to identify a certain number of trees to remove throughout the town each year, sufficiently spread out not to disrupt the beauty of the town, while choosing those which have a substantial possibility of falling down. Those trees would then be replaced by a variety of others that fit in with the surroundings but mature at different rates, so that we are not faced in the future with so many trees at a similar point in their life span. Finally, we would develop the plan so that each year another set of trees would be scheduled for replacement until we have accommodated all that are nearing the end of their lives.

We have worked with a number of arborists to explore the accuracy of determining the likelihood of a tree coming down, and have determined that this is an art, not a science. When

given a small set of trees to examine and to recommend three that should be removed, the arborists, working independently, did not select even one tree in common. So we realize that a plan such as I am describing has the inherent risk that the trees selected for removal may not prevent a catastrophic tree failure that causes substantial damage. But if we do nothing we guarantee that sooner or later that will happen. Therefore we want to develop a plan.

We are prepared to hire consultants to carry out the development of the plan under the guidance and direction of the Arboretum Committee, and we are looking for input from all residents about how to make this all work with minimum risk and maximum maintenance of the tree cover. As the project moves forward, the committee will be asking for your comments. If you want to lead the effort, the current chair of the committee has worked long and hard on creating and maintaining the natural beauty of our town, and has asked to be replaced so that he can focus on other priorities. So if you would like to be chair of the Arboretum Committee, please let me or Gene know.

The Town Council, the town staff, and I continue to undertake projects that we believe are important to protect the safety of the town and its residents, which enhance the beauty and livability of the town, and which accommodate the change that will inevitably come to our town, while preserving the historic character and community values which are so important to us all. We hope that you will support us in this project, as well as as all the others we are pursuing.

Peter Benjamin

Elbert Chang, DDS, MS

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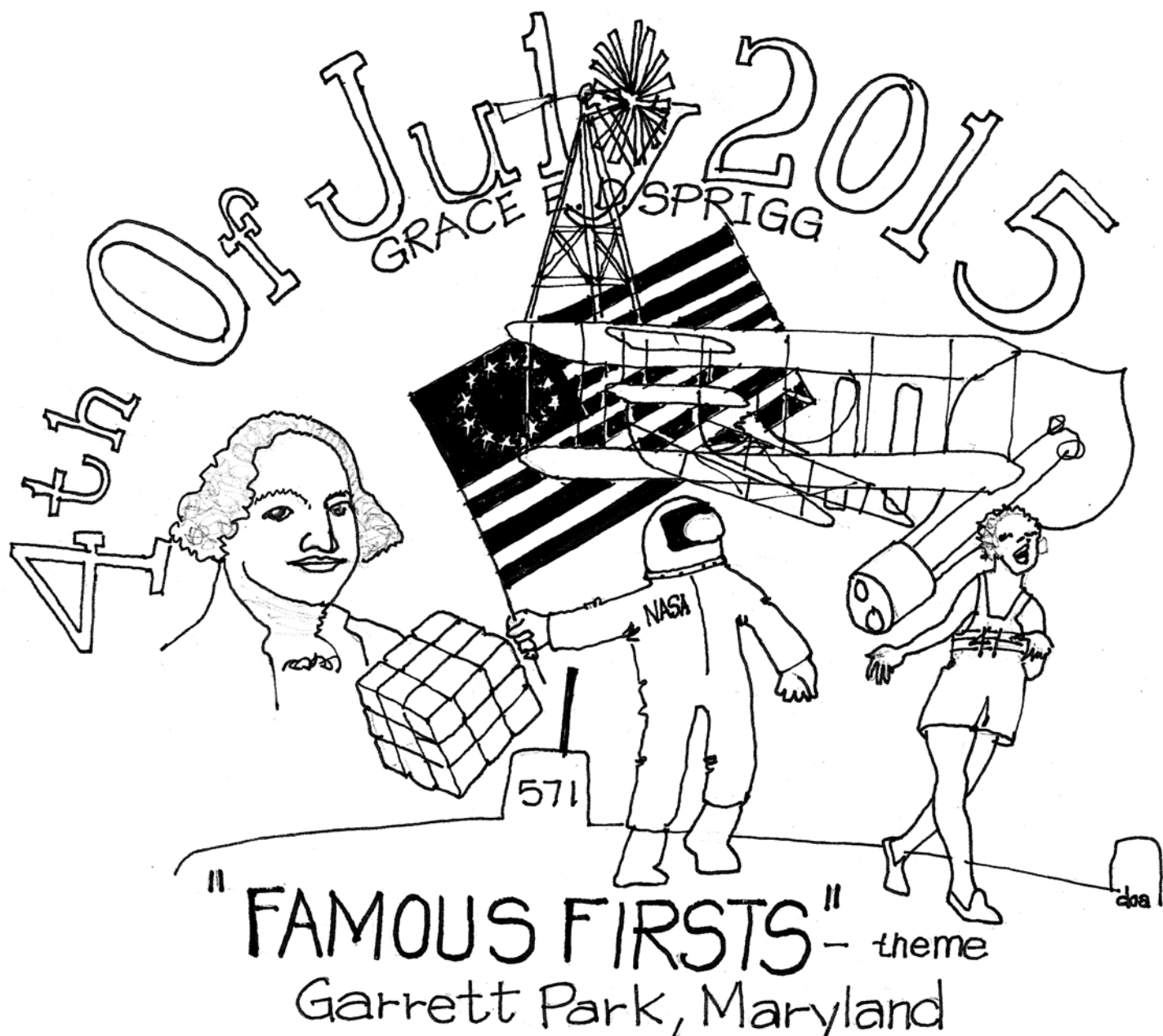
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7:30am Fun Run registration - All ages
Penn Place Parking lot

8:00am 2mile Fun Run / Walk - Penn Place

9:45am Parade forms. Garrett Park Elem.

10:30am Parade begins

1:00pm Pool Events

3:00pm 18th Annual Softball Game
G.P. Elementary

Music by Garrett Park's own Border State
Penn Place - after the parade